

Downtown Walking Tour

Western Front: Pike Place Market and Waterfront

Welcome to downtown Seattle, the city's art museum without walls. Since the early 1970s, government and private building owners have both participated in the tradition of commissioning and placing art in public spaces.

Beginning with the creation of the landmark percent-for-art legislation, public art began appearing in plazas, on hatch covers and tree grates and displayed in the lobbies and public buildings. Walking from one end of downtown to the other, a visitor can enjoy more than 200 diverse artworks. They range from art incorporated into the design of Metro's bus tunnel, to *Hammering Man* in the plaza of the Seattle Art Museum, to a spectacular collection of glass art in the City Center Building. There are attention-grabbing works by artists of international renown and artworks serving far more humble functions—artist-designed benches, security fences and building elements.

We hope that as you explore Seattle you will take this art guide with you. We in Seattle are proud of our public art and hope you will also enjoy it.

Length:
4 miles

Difficulty:
1, easy—take
the elevator
to and from
the waterfront



Seattle Arts
Commission

Western Front

Pike Place Market and Waterfront

Explore the western edge of downtown Seattle with this tour along the piers of Puget Sound. This four-mile walk includes great views of the Olympic Mountains, and is an easy stroll if you make use of the elevators at the Pike Street Hill Climb and Bell Street Piers.

Begin under the clock at the Pike Place Market:

- 1 Georgia Gerber**, *Rachel*, bronze pig, 1986

Be sure to look high above the sculpture for artwork hung along the rafters:

- 2 Aki Sogabe**, *Song of the Earth*, 1999, seven enameled steel panels.

To get to the waterfront, take the stairs down the Pike Street Hillclimb. For ADA accessibility, take the elevator to Alaskan Way. Head south on Alaskan Way to Waterfront Park:

- 3 James Fitzgerald and Margaret Tompkins**, *Waterfront Fountain*, 1974, bronze.

Walk north along the Seattle Aquarium at Pier 60. Interior art includes:

- 4 Jay Kohn**, *Marine Life Paintings*, 1982, oil on canvas.

- 5 Dale Chihuly**, *Puget Sound Forms*, 1987, glass installation.

Head north along the waterfront to the Bell Street Pier. As you walk to Pier 66, note the tall column on the waterfront.

- 6 Ron Fisher**, *Light Tower*, 1997, painted steel, light.

Continue north to the Port of Seattle West Viewpoint, on Pier 69. This public facility has information about regional services. After Pier 70, the waterfront becomes accessible to pedestrians only. Note the nautical motifs placed along the concrete seawall.

- 7** Artist unknown, cast bronze boat steering wheel motif.

Follow the path one-quarter mile to:

- 8 Michael Heizer**, *Adjacent, Against, Upon*, 1976, concrete and granite.

Return to Pier 66 (Bell Harbor.) Take elevator to 5th Avenue observation/roof level of Bell Street Conference Center. From here is an unusual view of:

- 9 Hewitt Isley Architects'** *Children's Wading Fountain*, 1997.

Cross Western Avenue on the Bell Street Pedestrian Bridge. The bollards on the east end of the bridge display a brief history of the area. Head left on Elliot Avenue, three blocks to Vine Street. Along Vine, between Elliot and Western, is a community garden known as the Belltown P-Patch.

- 10 Kevin Spitzer and Jonathan Barnett**, untitled, 1994, ceramic tile mural, wrought iron.

- 11 Kay Kirkpatrick**, *Solar Fountain*, 1994–95, mixed media.

Exit the P-Patch on Western Avenue, and continue south six blocks to Virginia Street. Victor Steinbrueck Park is the north end of the Pike Place Market.

- 12 Marvin Oliver and James Bender**, untitled carved cedar totem pole, 1984.

- 13 Victor Steinbrueck and James Bender**, *Farmer's Pole*, 1984, carved cedar.